Creation of two specific zones

3880. SHRIEKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been approved the creation of two specific zones that are pegged to do exports of Rs. 1,885 crore over the next five years;

(b) whether any additional Agri-Export Zones (AEZs) have been created; and

(c) the total number of such zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE !N THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Two Agri Export zones. One in Madhya Pradesh for wheat and the other in the Uttar Pradesh for Basmati rice are expected to generated exports of the order of Rs. 1185 crore over the next five year.

(b) and (c) 45 Agri Zones for different products have been approved till date.

IVIFA for minimum support price for Tobacco

3881. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Virginia Tobacco Farmers'Association held a meeting in Vijayawada to demand a minimum support price for their produce recently;

(b) whether farmers have been demanding tobacco price stabilization fund for them;

(c) if so, Government's response thereto?

(d) the steps being taken to provide remunerative price to tobacco growers; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The Government has no information of the meeting of the Virginia Tobacco Growers Association at Vijayawada.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government has approved the setting up of a Price Stabilization Fund for the benefit of tobacco farmers.

(d) and (e) In order to provide remunerative pricse to Flue Cured Virginia tobacco growers the Tobacco Board regulates production keeping in view the demand. Besides, it interacts with traders and domestic and international cigarette maunfacturers to encourage them to enhance their purchases and thereby impart buoyancy to prices.

Visit of Swedish business delegation

3882. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Swedish business delegation was recently in India on tour;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held on bilateral trade; and

(c) to what extent the trade between the two countries is likely to expand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENIVIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Indo-Swedish Joint Commission for Economic Industrial Technical and Scientific Cooperation held its 14th Meeting on the 1st and 2nd April, 2003 in New Delhi. The Official delegation led by Trade and Industry Minister of Sweden was accompanied by business delegation also. During the Joint Commission Meeting both sides made a presentation on the economic situation of their respective countries. Economic Developments and Policy in India and Sweden as well as multilateral issues with particular reference to WTO matters were discussed. The Indian side apprised the Swedish side of the various measures taken in the recent past to liberalize, streamline and modify policies and procedures in the areas of trade, investment, technology transfer and other sectors of economy and urged Swedish industry and business organizations to take full advantage of the favourable investment and commercial climate in India, the Swedish side, welcomed these developments and informed that India remained one of Sweden's most important trading partners amcng developing countries and that Sweden was very keen to increase commercial, industrial and technical cooperation